

Application No.: 10/724,191
Amendment dated: 12/30/05
Reply to Office Action of 9/14/05

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The present invention relates to a sliding door assembly capable for use as a door for a closet or a sliding room divider. In particular, the present invention relates to a sliding door assembly having the roller mechanism concealed in the upper and lower portions of the door such that mounting brackets for the roller mechanism are not visible from the front or rear of the door. The present invention further relates to a sliding door assembly having a top rail, a bottom rail and side stiles that are compression fit onto the [top] panel to simplify manufacture and create a door assembly having a uniform appearance on both a front side and a rear side.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] It is an important aspect of the present invention to provide a door panel for a double sided sliding door assembly having a top rail, a bottom rail and side stiles that require no [fixings] fasteners. The top rail, the bottom rail and the side stiles may be compression fit onto the door panel. In accordance with the present invention, each of the sliding doors includes a door panel having an outer periphery with a top edge, a

Application No.: 10/724,191
Amendment dated: 12/30/05
Reply to Office Action of 9/14/05

bottom edge and pair of opposing side edges. The door panel thickness is typically from 3 mm to 15 mm, but other thicknesses are considered to be well within the scope of the present invention. It is contemplated that each of the door panels may be formed from wood, metal, plastic, extruded wood flour composites and the like. A top rail is secured to the door panel adjacent the top edge of the door panel and therebeyond. The top rail extends the full width of the door panel. A bottom rail is secured to the door panel adjacent the bottom edge thereof. The bottom rail is load bearing. The bottom rail extends the full width of the door panel. A pair of stile sections are secured to the door panel adjacent the pair of opposing side edges. The stile sections extend between the top rail and the bottom rail. In accordance with the present invention, the top rail, bottom rail and stile sections are compression fitted onto the door panel. Such a construction eliminates the need for additional mechanical [fixings] fasteners. The top and bottom rails and the stile sections may be formed from extruded aluminum, roll-formed aluminum, roll-formed steel or other materials that are capable of being compression fitted onto the door panel.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] It is another important aspect of the present invention to provide a bottom roller mechanism for the sliding door assembly that is adjustable to permit height adjustment of

Application No.: 10/724,191
Amendment dated: 12/30/05
Reply to Office Action of 9/14/05

the door panel. The bottom roller mechanism is preferably concealed within the bottom rail [such] so that the mounting portion of the mechanism is not visible from either the front or the rear of the door panel. Each door panel in accordance with the present invention further includes at least one bottom roller mechanism fitted into a lower portion of the bottom rail. Each bottom roller mechanism is slidably received within the bottom guide track. With such an arrangement, the bottom roller mechanisms are concealed within the bottom rail. The bottom roller mechanism is substantially concealed within the bottom rail such that it is not visible (except for a lower portion of a roller assembly) from either the front or the rear. This is especially important when the door panels are used as a room divider. In accordance with the present invention, the bottom roller mechanism is compression fit into the bottom rail.

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] Each of the bottom roller mechanism includes a mounting bracket for securing the bottom roller mechanism to the bottom rail. The mounting bracket is sized to be compression fit onto the bottom rail. Each bottom roller mechanism further includes at least one roller assembly. The roller assembly is sized to be slidably received within a track in the bottom guide track. In accordance with the present invention, each roller mechanism further includes an adjustment mechanism operatively connected to the

Application No.: 10/724,191
Amendment dated: 12/30/05
Reply to Office Action of 9/14/05

mounting bracket. Adjustment of the adjustment mechanism adjusts the positioning of the door [panel] with respect to the bottom guide track. With such an arrangement, the height of the door panel can be raised and lowered to fit within the space defined between the top guide track and the bottom guide track. Each adjustment mechanism preferably includes a lever arm pivotally connected to the mounting bracket and an adjustment device for pivoting the lever arm with respect to the mounting bracket. The adjustment device preferably includes a screw assembly, wherein a portion of the screw assembly is secured to the lever arm. Another portion of the screw assembly is adjustable secured to the mounting bracket. A roller assembly is secured to one end of the lever arm.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] An end cap 114 is compression fitted into the channel 110 through the opposed open ends 112 and 113. The end caps 114 conceal the ends of open ends 112 and 113 [such] so that the channels 110 and 111 [and the] which are compression fit [with] on the door panel 101 are concealed and not visible from the side of the sliding door 10, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 4 and 10. Each end cap 114 includes an end plate 115 having at least one lateral mounting extension 116 extending therefrom. Each lateral mounting extension 116 is sized to be received in the upwardly opening channel 110 between one of the front and rear sides 108 and 109 and the downwardly opening channel 111. A suitable adhesive can

Application No.: 10/724,191
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be applied to the lateral mounting extension 116 to enhance the connection between the end cap 114 and the top rail 107. The end cap 114 further includes a pair of laterally extending guides 117 and 118, as shown in Figs. 3, 4 and 9. The guides 117 and 118 are sized and shaped to receive a top roller mechanism 200 there between, shown in Fig. 8.